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FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 1763  
INFO RUEHAC/AMEMBASSY ASUNCION 0105  
RUEHBE/AMEMBASSY BELIZE  
RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA 2655  
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 0349  
RUEHWN/AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN 0091  
RUEHBU/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 0208  
RUEHGE/AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN 0021  
RUEHGT/AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA 0750  
RUEHKG/AMEMBASSY KINGSTON 0259  
RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA 0721  
RUEHME/AMEMBASSY MEXICO 3711  
RUEHMN/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO 0111  
RUEHBH/AMEMBASSY NASSAU 0091  
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 0233  
RUEHPO/AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO 0030  
RUEHPU/AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE 0154  
RUEHSP/AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN 0097  
RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO 0947  
RUEHSJ/AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE 1930  
RUEHSN/AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR 1465  
RUEHDG/AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO 0412  
RUEHTG/AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA 0410  
RUEHUB/USINT HAVANA 0091

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 000168

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/25/2018  
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [EU](#) [CU](#) [PM](#)  
SUBJECT: PANAMA: CUBA DEMARCHE DELIVERED

REF: STATE 18320

Classified By: Ambassador William A. Eaton. Reasons: 1.4 (b) and (d).

(C) "Do not expect us to make any public comment," First VP and FM Samuel Lewis told Ambassador on February 24 in response to reftel demarche. Repeating an oft stated desire to serve as "bridge to Cuba," Lewis asserted that Panama was pushing Cuba to do "something" themselves before "external pressure" created an impetus for reform, but Lewis provided no specifics as to what "something" might constitute. Hoping for positive developments, Lewis noted that it would be important to see who would be selected as Vice President and members of the State Council. Asserting that he perceived "signals that Raul would implement change," Lewis said that he thought there would be more movement towards "greater democracy," "transparency," and "economic liberalization." Also, Lewis informed Ambassador that Panamanian President Martin Torrijos would likely travel to Cuba in the (unspecified) near future for medical treatment for his handicapped daughter. Comment: Post has no expectations that Panama will do anything public any time soon to pressure for democratic change, greater respect for human rights norms, or any other reform in Cuba.  
ARREAGA